

must be clearly consistent with and closely related to the participant's original exchange objective and necessary due to unusual or exceptional circumstances.

(b) A request for change of category along with supporting justification must be submitted to the Agency by the participant's sponsor. Upon Agency approval the sponsor shall issue to the exchange visitor a duly executed Form IAP-66 reflecting such change of category and provide a notification copy of such form to the Agency.

(c) Requests for change of category from research scholar to student will be evaluated recognizing the fact that, in some cases, research skills can be substantially enhanced by doctoral study.

(d) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category pursuant to these regulations is considered to be maintaining lawful status during the pendency of the application.

(e) An exchange visitor who applies for a change of category and who subsequently receives notice from the Agency that the request has been denied is considered to be maintaining lawful status for an additional period of thirty days from the day of such notice, during which time the exchange visitor is expected to depart the country, or for a period of thirty days from expiration of the exchange visitors' Form IAP-66, whichever is later.

§ 514.42 Transfer of program.

(a) Program sponsors may, pursuant to the provisions set forth in this section, permit an exchange visitor to transfer from one designated program to another designated program.

(b) The responsible officer of the program to which the exchange visitor is transferring:

- (1) Shall verify the exchange visitor's visa status and program eligibility;
- (2) Execute the Form IAP-66; and
- (3) Secure the written release of the current sponsor.

(c) Upon return of the completed Form IAP-66, the responsible officer of the program to which the exchange visitor has transferred shall provide:

- (1) The exchange visitor his or her copy of the Form IAP-66; and

- (2) A notification copy of such form to the Agency.

§ 514.43 Extension of Program.

(a) Responsible officers may extend an exchange visitor's participation in the Exchange Visitor Program up to the limit of the permissible period of participation authorized for his or her specific program category.

(b) A responsible officer extending the program of an exchange visitor shall issue to the exchange visitor a duly executed Form IAP-66 reflecting such extension and provide a notification copy of such form to the Agency.

(c) The responsible officer seeking a program extension on behalf of an exchange visitor in excess of that authorized for his or her specific category of participation shall:

- (1) Adequately document the reasons which justify such extension; and
- (2) Secure the prior written approval of the Agency for such extension.

(d) In addition to individual requests, the Agency shall entertain requests for groups of similarly situated exchange visitors.

§ 514.44 Two-year home-country physical presence requirement.

(a) *Statutory basis for rule.* Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, provides in substance as follows:

(1) No person admitted under Section 101(a) (15)(J) or acquiring such status after admission:

(i) Whose participation in the program for which he came to the United States was financed in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by an agency of the United States Government or by the government of the country of his nationality or of his last legal permanent residence;

(ii) Who at the time of admission or acquisition of status under 101(a)(15)(J) was a national or resident of a country which the Director of the United States Information Agency, pursuant to regulations prescribed by him, had designated as clearly requiring the services of persons engaged in the field of specialized knowledge or skill in which the alien was engaged [See "Exchange Visitor Skills List", 49 FR